PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Naoki ITO

Attn: PCT Branch

Application No. New U.S. Patent Application

Filed: September 18, 2006

Docket No.: 129407

For: ELECTROLYTE LAYER FOR FUEL CELL, FUEL CELL, AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING ELECTROLYTE LAYER FOR FUEL CELL

TRANSMITTAL OF THE ANNEXES TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached hereto are the annexes to the International Preliminary Report on Patentabilit (Form PCT/IPEA/409). The attached translated material replaces the claims in their entirety from page 19 to page 20.

Respectfully submitted,

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CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An electrolyte layer for a fuel cell comprising:

a compact substrate through which passes a gas supplied to the electrochemical reaction, wherein the substrate includes hydrogen-permeability;

a porous layer with fine pores that is formed on the substrate; and

an inorganic electrolyte supported in the pores, wherein the electrolyte includes proton-conductivity.

2. (Cancelled)

3. An electrolyte layer for a fuel cell according to Claim 1, wherein the electrolyte includes a solid acid.

4. An electrolyte layer for a fuel cell according to Claim 1, wherein the electrolyte includes a liquid acid.

5. A fuel cell comprising:

an electrolyte layer for a fuel cell according to any one of Claims 1 through 4, and

an electrode adjacent disposed adjacent to the porous layer, on the side opposite the substrate.

6.(Amended) A method of manufacturing an electrolyte layer for a fuel cell, the method comprising:

preparing a compact substrate through which passes a gas supplied to the electrochemical reaction, wherein the substrate includes hydrogen-permeability;

forming a porous layer with fine pores on the substrate; and

supporting an inorganic electrolyte in the pores, wherein the electrolyte includes proton-conductivity.

7.(Cancelled)

8. A method of manufacturing an electrolyte layer for a fuel cell according to Claim 6, wherein

the electrolyte includes a solid acid, and

the supporting the inorganic electrolyte includes

introducing a solution of a solid acid into the pores of the porous layer, and

drying the porous element containing the solution.